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SIPDIS

STATE FOR ISN/RA R NEPHEW AND J. RICHARD, AND IO/T H. VON  
BEHREN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/19/2018  
TAGS: [PARM](#) [MNUC](#) [IAEA](#) [AF](#) [SY](#) [IR](#) [CA](#)  
SUBJECT: CANADA IN STEP WITH U.S. ON MESA CANDIDATE FOR  
IAEA BOG

REF: A. STATE 99745  
[1](#)B. VIENNA 509

Classified By: PolMinCouns Scott Bellard, reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

[1](#)1. (S) Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) Deputy Director for Nuclear Disarmament Craig Weichel assured pol/miloff on September 19 that Canada and the U.S. are fully "in step" with respect to Afghanistan's bid for the Middle East South Asia (MESA) seat on the IAEA Board of Governors from 2008 to 2010. Canada also agrees on the need to support Kazakhstan's effort to be recognized as a member of the MESA group and thereby be eligible to win the that seat in the next cycle.

[1](#)2. (S) After hearing ref a points, Weichel promised that, because the Kazakh bid for the MESA seat seems to be a non-starter for now, Afghanistan will have Canada's full backing and Canadian officials will conduct "positive advocacy" in support of the Afghan bid. Like the U.S., however, Canada will be open to an alternative candidate, besides Syria or Iran, if consensus does not build around the Afghan bid, he commented.

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